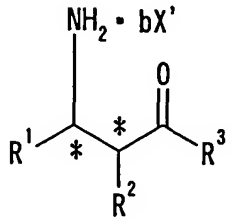
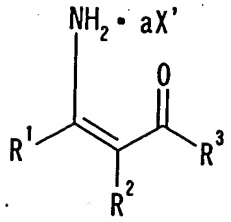
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method for producing an optically active β-amino acid of formula (2),



(2)

, wherein b is 0 or 1; the symbol * shows that the carbon atom is a chiral carbon; R^1 is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a substituted cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, a substituted aralkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, an aliphatic heterocyclic group, a substituted aliphatic heterocyclic group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a substituted aromatic heterocyclic group, an alkoxy group, a substituted alkoxy group, an aralkyloxy group, a substituted aralkyloxy group, an aryloxy group or a substituted aryloxy group; R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a substituted cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, a substituted aralkyl group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group, an aliphatic heterocyclic group, a substituted aliphatic heterocyclic group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a substituted aromatic heterocyclic group, an alkoxy group, a substituted alkoxy group, an aralkyloxy group, a substituted aralkyloxy group, an aryloxy group, a substituted aryloxy group, an alkyloxycarbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group; R^3 is an alkoxy group, a substituted alkoxy group, an aralkyloxy group, a substituted aralkyloxy group, an aryloxy group, a substituted aryloxy group, an amino group or a substituted amino group, X' is an acid, and R^1 and R^2 or R^2 and R^3 may be combined together to form a ring provided that R^1 and R^2 are not a hydrogen atom simultaneously, which comprises subjecting an enamine of formula (1),



(1)

, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and X' have the same meanings as described above, and a is 0 or 1, to an asymmetric hydrogenation.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of an acid.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a fluorine-containing aliphatic alcohol.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation in carried out in the presence of a catalyst for the asymmetric hydrogenation.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the catalyst for the asymmetric hydrogenation is a transition metal complex.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the transition metal complex is a complex of a metal which belong to the eighth group of the periodic table.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, wherein the transition metal complex has a chiral ligand.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the chiral ligand is a chiral phosphine ligand.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of an acid and a fluorine-containing aliphatic alcohol.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation in carried out in the presence of a catalyst for the asymmetric hydrogenation.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation in carried out in the presence of a catalyst for the asymmetric hydrogenation.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the transition metal complex has a chiral ligand.